

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace Paragraph [0002] with the following:

This invention was made with the United States government support awarded by the following agency: USDA/CSREES 2002-34481-11930. The United States has certain rights in this invention.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for improving body weight uniformity in a target group of animals, the method comprising the step of administering to said target group of animals an anti-phospholipase A₂ (anti-PLA₂) antibody in an amount sufficient to improve body weight uniformity.

2-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anti-PLA₂ antibody is administered by a method selected from injection and oral delivery.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the anti-PLA₂ antibody is administered by an injection method selected from subcutaneous injection, intraperitoneal injection, intramuscular injection, and intravenous injection.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anti-PLA₂ antibody is mixed with a feed or food.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the animals are selected from avians and mammals.